REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 are in the case, neither as yet allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnard et al. (U.S. PG PUB No. 2005/0097016).

Applicants traverse and argue that the Examiner has not made the required prima facie case of anticipation, which requires that the Examiner provides

- a single reference 1.
- that teaches or enables 2.
- each of the claimed elements (arranged as in the 3. claim)
- expressly or inherently 4.
- as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the 5. art.

With respect to the third element, it is not enough that the prior art reference disclose all the claimed elements in isolation. Rather, as stated by the Federal Circuit, the prior art reference must disclose each element of the claimed invention "arranged as in the claim." The Examiner, further, must identify the elements of the claims of the application, determine their meaning in light of the specification and prosecution history, and identify the corresponding elements disclosed in the allegedly

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anticipating reference. [See Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)]. Further, anticipation will not be found when the prior art is lacking or missing a specific feature or structure of the claimed invention. [See Continental Can Co. USA v. Monsanto Co., 20 USPQ 2d 1746, 1748 (Fed. Cir. 1991)].

The Examiner characterizes the teachings of Barnard in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, but does not appear to relate those teachings to the specific language of applicant's claims. For example, the phrase "receiving a user request from a first client browser to log in to said front-end server" is not a specific element in applicant's claims, nor is the included phrase "first client browser".

The Examiner states:

"Please note: Examiner did not feel compeled [sic] to rewrite/repeat the entire claims in the rejection since it would [be] redundant and time consuming to do so. It is respectfully request [sic, requested] from the applicant, in preparing the responses to fully consider the references [sic, reference] in its entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner." [Office action, page 3.]

Applicants traverse. The Examiner has not met his burden to establish a prima facie case of anticipation under

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35 U.S.C. 102, which requires that he "identify the elements of the claims of the application, determine their meaning in light of the specification and prosecution history, and identify the corresponding elements disclosed in the allegedly anticipating reference."

Set forth below is applicant's claim 1 (claim 12 is similar), marked to show various features or structures (certainly not all) which have not been identified by the Examiner as taught by the Barnard et al. reference, and which, in fact, are not.

A method for providing procurement services to a 1 plurality of customer companies with complex accounting 2 rules while providing secure information viewing in support 3 of said customer companies, said customer companies being 4 organized in a plurality of customer company groups and 5 procurement coalitions for volume discounts and access to 6 shared contracts with respect to a plurality of vendors, 7 with procurement contracts leveraged across company groups, 8 comprising the steps of: 9

> providing a front end requisition and catalog server for providing a user interface to a user at a customer company browser to access catalogs and commodities managed by said enterprise and for providing approval notices and receiving approve/reject data with respect to customer approvers;

inputs to said front end requisition and catalog server from an enterprise procurement services

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18	system including requisition status, purchase
19	order status and contracts, cost centers, currency
20	exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase
21	order history invoices, purchase order history
22	receipts, and confirmations; outputs from said
23	requisition and catalog server to said procurement
24	services system including requisitions and
25	positive confirmation responses;
26	inputs to said front end requisition and catalog
27	server from said customer company browser
28	including submit requisition; outputs from said
29	requisition and catalog server to said customer
30	company browser including approval/rejection
31	notices, status display, and negative and positive
32	confirmations; with notice and response data being
33	exchanged between said requisition and catalog
34	server and browser;
35	inputs to said front end requisition and catalog
36	server from a vendor system including vendor
37	catalogs via an enterprise electronic data
38	interchange application;
39 ⁻	inputs to said front end requisition and catalog
40	server from an enterprise requisition and catalog
41	system including postal code validation data;
42	inputs to said front end requisition and catalog
43	server including human resource extract data from
44	an enterprise hub server;

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45	providing said enterprise procurement services system
46	managed by said enterprise for accepting requisitions
47	from said front end requisition and catalog server
48	entered by said user and responsive thereto for causing
49	said electronic data interchange application to
50	generate transactions to said vendors and for
51	generating accounting transactions to a leveraged
52	procurement network data warehouse facility for said
53	requisitions;
54	inputs to said enterprise procurement services
55	system from said front end requisition and catalog
56	server including requisitions and positive
57	confirmation responses; and outputs to said front
58	end requisition and catalog server from said
59	enterprise procurement services system including
60	requisition status data, purchase order status and
61	contracts data, cost center data, currency
62	exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase
63	order history invoices, purchase order history
64	receipts, and order confirmations;
65	inputs to said enterprise procurement services
66	system from said enterprise hub server including
67	cost center data; and outputs to said hub server
68	from said enterprise procurement services system
69	including a company process control table, vendor
70	master updates, and accounting detail;
71	inputs to said enterprise procurement services
72	system from said electronic data interchange
73	application including purchase order

74	acknowledgments, invoices, payment status and file
75	transfer check reconstructions; and outputs from
76	said enterprise procurement services system to
77	said electronic data interchange application
78	including purchase orders, invoice rejections and
79	payments;
80	inputs to said enterprise procurement services
81	system from operator terminals including process
82	purchase orders, requests for quotes, and
83	contracts data, create/change vendor master data,
84	invoice processing, payment proposal data, and
85	payment post and print;
86	inputs to said enterprise procurement services
87	system including currency exchange rate data from
88	an external financial services server; and output
89	from said enterprise procurement services system
90	to vendors including paper and fax purchase order
91	documents;
92	inputs to said enterprise electronic data
93	interchange application from said vendor including
94	purchase acknowledgments and invoices, and outputs
95	from said electronic data interchange application
96	to said vendor including purchase orders and
97	invoice rejections;
98	inputs to said enterprise electronic data
99	interchange application including payments from a
100	payment source and outputs from said enterprise
101	electronic data interchange application including

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102	payments to customer electronic data interchange
103	applications;
104	providing said leveraged procurement network hosted
105	data warehouse facility for storing and monitoring said
106	electronic data interchange transactions and accounting
107	transactions;
108	providing said enterprise hub server for transferring
109	data between said front end requisition and catalog
110	server, said back-end purchasing system, and said data
111	warehouse facility;
112	inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub
113	server from said enterprise procurement services
114	system including company process control table,
115	vendor master updates and accounting detail;
116	outputs from said enterprise procurement services
117	hub server including human resource extract data,
118	extracted from customer employee data, to customer
119	requisition and catalog system;
120	outputs from said enterprise procurement services
121	hub server to a customer back-end purchasing
122	system including vendor master data, invoice
123	detail, payment detail and bank clearing detail
124	data;
125	inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub
126	server further including cost centers data;

127	said customer back-end purchasing system also
128	receiving goods receipts from customer receiving;
129	establishing in a computer database a user profile for
130	associating acceptable accounting and system controls
131	to each person authorized by a customer company to
132	access said procurement services;
133	associating each said company with a company group of
134	related companies;
135	providing common code defining workflow components
136	common to all companies within said company group,
137	including accounting validation and approval
138	processing;
139	specifying in said user profile for each said user a
140	user company and company group so as to define said
141	controls based on company and company group by
142	collecting in said user profile each of a
143	plurality of users into a user profile table
144	associating acceptable accounting and system
145	controls for each person authorized by a customer
146	company to access procurement services for
147	leveraging access and maintaining isolation of
148	data by identifying a user at log on as associated
149	with a particular company group;
150	providing in a hub server a company group human
151	resources file connected through a fire wall to a
152	requisition and catalog server for creating and

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153	maximodiffing data about profits of the same of
154	said procurement services including process
155	requirements and data resources accessible only to
156	those users identified in their profiles as
157	members of a particular company and, therefore,
158	company group and including catalogs, contracts,
159	cost centers defining departments that can be
160	charged, a chart of accounts defining general
161	ledger account codes, entries in said user profile
162	table, business rules and defaults including those
163	affiliated with accounting and specifying fields
164	that must be completed in creating a requisition
165	and default data to be entered in those fields;
166	providing in each entry for a user in said user
167	profile a company group code, a company code, a
168	plant code specifying ship to location, an
169	employee serial number, and an E-mail address;
170	using said company group code and said
171	company code responsive to user login to
172	associate said user with a given company in a
173	company group for
174	responsive to user selection of a shop-
175	from-a-catalog button on a user browser,
176	controlling catalog application code to
177	display to said user only those catalogs
178	for which a corresponding catalog
179	profile includes said user's company in
180	a resource profile;

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181	specifying departments that can be
	charged across companies in a company
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183	group;
184	selectively allowing a user to initiate
185	requests for other users, view general
186	ledger account codes associated with
187	commodity codes by company group,
188	company group specific business rules
189	including accounting business rule
190	defaults specifying fields required to
191	be filled in by said user based on item
192	being bought;
193	said resource profile providing for each procurement
194	resource to be shared among said users a resource
195	profile in a computer database specifying for each
196	resource those said companies to have access to and
197	share said procurement resource; and
198	responsive to said user profile and said resource
199	profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
	resources.
200 -	Tepontces.

Highlighting has been added to the above claim to point out only some of the distinctions in the claim with respect to the Barnard et al. reference.

Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and claims 1 and 12 allowed.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the case be passed to issue with claims 1 and 12.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

S. B. Cirulli, et al

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